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University of Dayton

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NEWS RELEASE

FRAN EVANS NAMED ONE OF DAYTON'S TOP TEN WOMEN, CATALYST BEHIND UD'S \$150 MILLION IMAGE- AND FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN

DAYTON, Ohio — Fran Evans, vice president for advancement at the University of Dayton, has been named one of the *Dayton Daily News'* Ten Top Women for 2001.

Evans is the catalyst behind UD's \$150 million image- and fund-raising campaign, the largest effort undertaken by any organization in the city. As a member of UD's presidential search committee, she also helped recruit Daniel J. Curran, the first lay president in UD's history.

But her greatest mark in her eight-year career at UD has been in fundraising. UD now ranks fourth in alumni giving among all Catholic universities in the national category of *U.S. News & World Report's* annual college rankings. Only Notre Dame, Georgetown and Boston College have higher alumni-giving rates among Catholic universities.

"Fran Evans is an extraordinarily gifted fund raiser, a creative supervisor, a trusted colleague and a strong mentor for her staff. She's a highly effective, articulate leader who has the ability to make connections, see the 'big picture' and inspire others to work toward a vision," said Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., president, who nominated her for the honor. "She is the most successful fundraiser in UD's history and a major reason why UD will surpass its \$150 million goal for the Call to Lead Campaign. She's successful because she can clearly articulate UD's vision and mission and spark people's imaginations about UD's future as a national leader in Catholic higher education."

Evans supervises the advancement division, which includes staff in development,

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alumni relations, public relations and advancement services. She has helped UD position itself as a national leader in Catholic higher education. She has worked with staff across the advancement division to put programs in place that helped raise UD's alumni participation rate, develop a national giving program, improve reputation and increase alumni pride. The public relations staff has won more than a dozen national awards in publications, media relations and e-marketing.

Although Evans would not describe herself as a feminist, she's enhanced the climate for women on UD's campus. When she became vice president eight years ago, she was the only woman among the vice presidents and deans at UD. Today, there are two female vice presidents and one dean. She serves on the highest advisory groups on campus, the President's Council and the Educational Leadership Council, and she's the staff coordinator for the advancement committee of the board of trustees.

Evans, who resides in Oakwood, holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Emory University. She's a native of New Orleans.

The honorees will be recognized at an April 19 luncheon at the Dayton Convention Center. Besides Evans, Judy Abromowitz, Annie Bonaparte, Ann Crichton Karter, Jamie King, Valerie Lee, Anne McNeill, Norma J. Ross, Jerri Stanard and Dorothy Vivians will be honored this year.

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For media interviews, contact **Fran Evans** at (937) 229-2912.